



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Mayor's Sustainability Task Force Continues to Move Forward *Announces Public Meeting*

November 15th at 7:00 pm at the Buttonwood Senior Center

New Bedford, Massachusetts- Earlier this summer, the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force was developed to formulate recommendations and implementation plans for better municipal energy and environmental practices in the City of New Bedford. The Mayor's Sustainability Task Force is working to develop feasible recommendations that will produce tangible results to be presented in a report to New Bedford Mayor Scott W. Lang.

Former Mayor John K. Bullard, Chairman of the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force said the working group has been meeting regularly and has made significant progress toward the achieving its mission. "At this point, we have identified key areas to focus our efforts and have begun to formulate concrete sustainable practices that if implemented can dramatically reduce certain burdens on both the environment and taxpayer's wallets" said Bullard. He said the next step in the process is to hold a public meeting to update the residents on what has been done so far toward achieving our goal and to gather the public's ideas and comments on energy efficiency, sustainability and improving the environment at the local level.

"The public meeting component is an opportunity for parents, business owners, students and other residents to express their ideas about energy-efficiency and sustainability that will help shape environmentally sound policies for the future of the City of New Bedford," said Mayor Lang. "I encourage New Bedford residents to attend this meeting to learn more and share their ideas with the committee," he continued.

To learn more about energy efficiency and sustainability practices and to share your ideas come to the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force Public Meeting on **November 15th at 7:00 pm at the Buttonwood Senior Center.**

Meanwhile, here are some sustainable tips you and your family or business can try:

1. **Use a Blank Screen Saver**

Screen savers are energy wasters. Set your screen to 'none' or 'blank screen'. Computer monitors use approximately 90 watts of power when they are on (including when screen savers are operating) but only a few watts when they are in power save/sleep/hibernate mode. Maximize the power-saving features of your computer by setting it to enter power-saving mode after ten minutes of inactivity. Your computer can be easily awoken by the touch of a key or even locked by a password for increased security.

2. **Use Smart Transportation**

Tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks account for almost a third of the air pollution in the United States. Whenever possible, combine activities and errands into one trip. Take advantage of public transportation and carpooling. Bicycling or even walking can be suitable (and healthy) transportation alternatives

3. **Be Wary of "Vampire Appliances"**

"Vampire appliances" or those unused appliances that remain plugged into the wall socket can add a constant 50-watt drain to your power supply. Studies show that eliminating this standby or "leaking" electricity could save households between six and 26 percent on their average monthly electricity bill.

4. **Fix Leaky Faucets**

A faucet dripping at the rate of one drop per second can waste 2,700 gallons per year adding to the cost of water and sewer utilities. Repairing a dripping faucet can be as simple as replacing a washer.

5. **Switch to CFLS**

Switch to Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs (CFLS). Save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over each bulb's lifetime. Energy Star qualified bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.

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